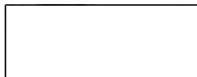25X1A

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Soviet Anti-Gas Capes

25X1A

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

DATE OF

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

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1. Gas capes were a standard part of the anti-gas equipment of the Soviet Army during World War II and even prior to it. Every member of the Soviet Armed Forces, including officers, was issued one cape. I had seen these capes first in 1939 and they were still in used when I returned to the Soviet Zone of Germany in 1949. I can remember, these capes were available in only one size, made to fit anybody. The capes were sleeveless but were provided with two slits on the sides, and a hood.

2. The material out of which these capes were made was not cellophane but something like oily paper. The material was not transparent; the color was yellowish. The softness of the material depended on the length of time the capes had been in use. It was thin material, about as thick as two sheets of normal writing paper.

3. There was no prescribed limit to the life of these capes. They served as long as usable and were exchanged only when damaged. I never heard of a case when capes were exchanged solely because they had served for a certain period of time.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

STATE	X	NAVY	X	AEC	X	DISTRIBUTION					
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI	X						

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4. In 1950 the Soviet Army in Germany received some capes which were slightly different but still essentially like the old ones. Basically the material of which they were made was still paper but instead of being smooth the texture was rough like a web or a net. The whole was covered with an oily substance which was very similar, and probably identical with the old one. I could see no basic difference between the old capes and the new ones.

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